

Remarks made by H.E. Mr. ESTIFANOS Afeworki, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) in Tokyo on the Occasion of the Tokyo Africa Club (TAC) meeting held focused on WORLD EXPO2025 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with ADC on June 28th 2017:

Mr. Nobuo Kishi, State Minister for Foreign Affairs
Ambassador Takeshi Osuga, Director General, African Affairs
Department

Mr. Manatsu Ichinoki, Secretary General, 2025 Japan World Expo
Committee Secretariat

Mr. Takayuki Sumita, Director-General for Commerce, Distribution
and Industrial Safety Policy

Excellencies and Dear Colleagues

Honorable guests

On the onset, please allow me to express, on behalf of the African Diplomatic Corps present and myself in my capacity as a Dean and as Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan, our deep-felt gratitude and appreciation for the invitation extended to all of us to participate in this important program of today held by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan - to promote Osaka for the 2025 World Expo.

As we all know, Japan has set its eyes to host this prestigious world movement once again in 2025 in Osaka – i.e. for the third time. As the old saying goes: success breeds success. It is well known that Japan has successfully hosted OSAKA 1970 EXPO and AICHI 2005 EXPO in the past. As was presented to us here also today, Japan has once again thrown its hat into the ring -with Paris - in the bid to host the 2025 World Expo in Osaka.

As ambassadors of 38 countries of Africa represented here in Tokyo – our main task and mission is to strengthen and deepen the existing friendly relations between our countries and Japan. Our task has greatly benefited from the mutual activities held in OSAKA and AICHI EXPO's in the past. It was great opportunity for Africa and Japan both at public and private level.

As was presented to us today also, the preparation for a successful bid for WORLD EXPO 2025 seems to be in full gear. Therefore, it is

appropriate and prudent to express, at this juncture, our collective good wish and support to the success of this campaign.

Keep the good work and thank you once again for keeping our group and our Head Quarters engaged on this important matter.